

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Referring to FIG. 3, the programming engine 16a is shown in a functional pipeline unit 50. The functional pipeline unit 50 includes the programming engine 16a and a data unit 52 that includes data, operated on by the programming engine, e.g., network packets 54. The programming engine 16a is shown having a local register unit 56. The local register unit 56 stores information from the data packets 54. This information can be for example, a payload from a network packet, or data from other sources. ????